

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figure 10 has been amended to include the legend “PRIOR ART”. The accompanying Replacement Sheet is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2005. Claim 5 is pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to present those claims in a separate continuing application. Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate all the features of cancelled claims 2 and 3. Claim 5 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claim 5 by incorporating all the limitations of Claim 2 and Claim 3 from which it depended, directly or indirectly. As such, Claim 5 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Figure 10 was objected to for not being labelled as "Prior Art". Applicant has now amended Figure 10 by including the label "Prior Art". A replacement sheet is attached herewith. Entry of the amendment to Figure 10 is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,726,520 B2 (*Takeda et al.*).¹

Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, the cancellation of Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 render the rejections moot. The cancellation of these claims is taken without prejudice

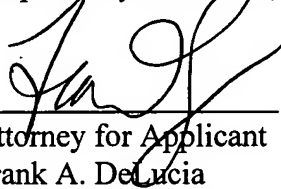
¹Page 2, section 3 of the Office Action, which sets forth the Section 103(a) rejection, does not refer to Claim 4. However, page 5, section 8 of the Office Action provides a discussion of Claim 4 in view of *Takeda et al.*

or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of Claim 5 is earnestly solicited, as is expedited and early passage to issue of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', is written over a horizontal line.

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